Rome Oct. 14. 1867

My dear Tom

You deserve a return poster & here it is but I regret that I cannot send you very cheering news of myself

I am back here in my dear home with all my comforts about me, excellent servants good food & every thing to make me happy Success attends all my Consular doings & I should be the most contented of human creatures, if I could but shake off these pains which devour me, I am told by the Doctors that they are nervous pains which the cold will drive away but the cold has made me worse for my sleep begins to be disturbed by the pains in my knees

But at last the famous cave is ready
the fermenting new wine which is full of
gas & spirits so I get into the
tub every other day & remain an hour
but I cannot judge yet as I have
had only two baths—

The Tolfa mineral boiling waters of
which I had 25 baths entirely removed
the rheumatic swellings so that now
I can get into my boots & as it is near
3 months since my last bath I have
great hope that I am free

Since my return I have been able to attend
the audiences which at time are important
& my chief Sec.y who has been so indulgent
during my illness & aided me in every way
now assures me that he failed in the
important things as he is sure that
they

depend on my personal influence

Just think on my arrival I received a despatch & memorial from the Italian Prime Minister requesting me to constrain Cardinal Antonelli to do away with the arrests of Italians in Rome — the memorial was very violent & threatning & so I felt obliged to request the minister to send me a more moderate one, as I should never be able to get an answer to the violent one, as the Papal ministers permitted me to reason with them in a friendly way — the Italian minister thanked me & granted me full leave to do it all in my own way & this I've done with great success

My picture progresses & is going to the famous Ashburton collection

With my love to all

Your affectionate brother

Joe